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Newsletter

GRADUATE SCHOOL ★ USDA

October 11, 1957

To the Faculty, Committee Members and
others associated with the Graduate School:

Faculty luncheons on the first Tuesday of the month will be resumed November 5 with Ward Stewart of the Office of Education as speaker. Dr. Stewart is Assistant Commissioner of Education and represents the Commissioner of Education on The President's Committee on Education Beyond the High School.

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A lecture series on foreign agricultural programs is now in the planning stage. The committee in charge is headed by Don Paarlberg, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture. Working with him are Walter Berger, Commodity Stabilization Service, E. N. Holmgren, International Cooperation Administration, Harold A. Vogel, UN Food and Agriculture Organization, and O. V. Wells, Agricultural Marketing Service.

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The flow of students that surged into the patio of the Administration building, September 14, continued steadily through the week scheduled for registration and intermittently the following one. Though our statistical picture is incomplete, we can report an enrollment of more than 3,200.

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In a primitive society, every new baby makes the rest of the population poorer. In a highly civilized society, a growing population can be maintained with a diminishing store of natural resources by increasing resourcefulness. And one way this may be done is through training more and more scientists and engineers.

The urgent need to interest young people in these fields and provide the training required was emphasized by Chairman Howard L. Bevis of the President's Committee on Scientists and Engineers, honor guest at our faculty dinner, September 11. The role of the Committee, in his opinion, is that of a catalytic agent for getting citizens and citizen groups to further the development of scientific training in this country.

Dr. Bevis and other head table guests -- the P. V. Cardons, the Russell Thackreys -- were introduced by O. V. Wells representing the General Administration Board.

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So you think your classroom is crowded!

C. M. Purves, who has set a record in the number of years (31) he has taught in the Graduate School, thinks he may have also set a record in the number of students (200) packed into a small room.

This was his class in elementary statistics in the fall of 1930. In the four previous years, the course had drawn an average enrollment of 30. The upsurge of interest was caused by the agricultural census, then in the making, and the prospect that people with training in statistics could qualify for jobs in Census. Many of them were in need of jobs in that first year of the depression.

Then as now, the Graduate School somehow found additional rooms and teachers to care for the big class. It was divided into sections and one of them, Mr. Purves recalls, was assigned to Sterling (Bert) Newell.

Mr. Purves had been pressed into teaching when he arrived in Washington in 1926 from Texas A. & M., where he had been on the faculty. The Graduate School at that time was headed by Dr. A. F. Woods. He and Nellie Feelie, his secretary and only assistant, had an office in the Administration building overlooking the Mall. Even then, the courses in statistics under the leadership of O. C. Stine were attracting widespread interest.

Mr. Purves says he has enjoyed teaching evening courses in statistics over the years. This has brought him into contact with many people throughout Government as the field has steadily expanded. The money earned in teaching has also helped send his son, Richard, through Duke University, and daughter, Claire, through Cornell. Both now work for the Government. And we are happy to report that Mr. Purves plans to continue teaching in the Graduate School.

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"I have long contended that the real reward for teaching is the recognition of one's services, not the salary one receives." That is how Susan Harman began her letter thanking us for a certificate awarded to each member of the faculty with 20 years or more of service. In addition to Dr. Harman, who joined our faculty in 1937, these are: C. M. Purves, Sterling Newell, Ralph Stauber, William Rowe, Carl C. Taylor, Sherman Johnson, and John S. Lucas.

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Forty students who hold Government jobs by day and do their homework on Graduate School courses in the evenings and on weekends are unusual in that their jobs are in the Ministry of Agriculture in Iraq. They live in Baghdad and the arrangements for them to take our correspondence courses were made through the International Cooperation Administration. The largest number (14) is taking Administration and Supervision. Seven are studying Statistical Methods in Biology and Agriculture, five are taking Report Writing, Four have begun work in Sampling and Experimental Design. Other courses that have attracted from one

to three students are Soils and Soil Management, Farm Forestry, Hydrology, Statistics of Biological Assay, and Meat Inspection.

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Among our faculty who either are on foreign assignments or planning travel abroad during the months immediately ahead are:

M. L. Wilson, who is going to India on a tour of duty for the Ford Foundation for five or six months, and Thelma Dreis, who is making a study tour of Africa. Since both Dr. Wilson and Dr. Dreis will be away, it has been necessary to withdraw the seminar on Cultural Changes in Contemporary Cultures from our schedule this year.

James M. Beall, an instructor in Agricultural Meteorology, has accepted a two-year assignment with the International Cooperation Administration for technical assistance in Bolivia.

Jacob Ornstein is spending the year at Harvard University. If you missed Dr. Ornstein's lively article on winning the "language race" with Russia in THE NEW YORK TIMES Sunday magazine for September 15, you may wish to read a library copy. He points to the serious gaps in the language training facilities of our academic institutions. "Apparently there is not a single American university equipped to provide a reading, writing, and speaking knowledge of important Africa tongues. According to current statistics from the Conference on Asian Affairs, 40 per cent of United States institutions of higher learning ignore the languages of Asia and the Middle East." Dr. Ornstein makes it clear that we are paying a high price in progress in world affairs for linguistic ignorance.

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A note to new members of the faculty and a reminder to those of you who have been associated with us over the years: although the Graduate School is not an accredited institution and has never sought to be, many of our courses are accepted for credit by foremost colleges.

Students who are working for degrees in local institutions find it possible to meet requirements for specific courses by work in the Graduate School. For instance, one of the students now enrolled in our course, Principles of Editing and Their Application, was introduced by a letter from Dean Vernon E. Anderson of the College of Education, University of Maryland, saying all grades of C or better will be accepted for transfer credit.

As the editors of the eighth edition of the College Blue Book point out: "Accreditation does not constitute an unqualified recommendation that credits earned toward graduation from an accredited institution will be transferred to meet the requirements of another institution.

"Transfer of credits, in any case, should be determined by the colleges concerned in terms of the purpose and objective of the institution which is to grant the degree and the extent to which the credit earned at another institution is appropriate to the articulated program leading to the degree in question."

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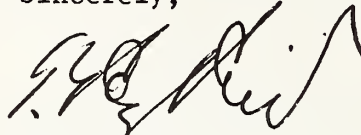
Last month, we marked "out-of-print" on the listing of another Graduate School publication -- the 2 volume "Outline of Naval Architecture and Ship Construction" by C. L. Wright. Volume 1 was published in 1940, volume 2 in 1942. Our remaining

copies -- six of volume 1 and 15 of volume 2 -- went to Dwight Simpson & Associates, naval architects, marine engineers, and surveyors, of Boston. The firm wrote, "We have been using the two booklets for a long time and have found them very valuable for our trainees."

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We are delighted that R. G. Hainsworth, who retired from Government September 9, after 48 years of service, will continue his association with the Graduate School.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "T. Roy Reid". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "T" and a long, sweeping underline.

T. Roy Reid
Director